

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03492

E.O. 11152: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PDEV, UNGA, RQ
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 - YOUNG/JAIPAL
CONVERSATION

1. AMB YOUNG DISCUSSED QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO IN
COMMITTEE OF 24 WITH INDIAN AMB JAIPAL SEPT 6, NOTING
THAT IT WAS UP TO THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE
WHAT THEY WANTED AND WHEN THEY WISHED TO TAKE A
DECISION. THE C-24 WAS BECOMING DEEPLY INVOLVED IN
PUERTO RICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THIS COULD REDOUND
AGAINST UN.

2. JAIPAL AGREED AND SAID HE HAD TALKED TO CUBAN
AMB. JAIPAL GAINED IMPRESSION THAT CUBANS FEEL THEY
HAVE VOTES TO GET THEIR RES ADOPTED AND WOULD LIKE TO
VOTE. HE URGED THEM, HOWEVER, THAT SPLIT COMMITTEE
VOTE WOULD NOT DO PUERTO RICANS ANY GOOD AND US MIGHT
IGNORE SUCH RESULT. IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER TO HAVE
RES APPROVED BY CONSENSUS. CUBAN RESPONSE WAS THAT
EVEN IF APPROVED BY SMALL MAJORITY IN COMMITTEE, RES
HAD SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICANS THAT FAVOR INDEPENDENCE
AND THOSE THAT FAVOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS; THIS
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CONSTITUTED MAJORITY OF PUERTO RICANS. THEY SAID THAT
COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTERS WERE DISSATISFIED WITH FAILURE
OF US TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR CHANGES IN COMPACT
AND THAT PRES. FORD'S PROPOSAL FOR STATEHOOD HAD
BEEN PARTICULARLY UPSETTING. THEY TOLD JAIPAL THAT
RES WAS NOT FORMULATED BY CUBA BUT REPRESENTED
POSITION OF PUERTO RICANS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE AND

COMMONWEALTH STATUS.

3. YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE MORE THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IS STIRRED UP IN THE UN, THE MORE IT WILL HURT THE ORGANIZATION. JAIPAL COMMENTED THAT THE PUERTO RICANS WERE CLEARLY EXPLOITING THE UN FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH THE CUBANS AT PRESENT PREFER A VOTE ON THEIR RESOLUTION, THEY SAID THEY WOULD WAIT TO SEE THE AUSTRALIAN AND ANY OTHER AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND THEN SEE WHAT THE SITUATION WAS IN THE COMMITTEE.

4. JAIPAL ALSO REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE APPEARED TO BE INTERESTED IN THE IDEA OF A CONSENSUS AND THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TOLD HIM THEY WOULD GO ALONG IF A CONSENSUS COULD BE WORKED OUT. (SOVIET POSITION WAS CONFIRMED BY THEIR STATEMENT LATER IN DAY IN THE COMMITTEE.) HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A MEMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT CONSENSUS APPROACH. YOUNG

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